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be unsafe for occupancy. The shock was the most severe that has been felt at the observatory.

A TELEGRAM received at the Harvard College Observatory from Professor R. G. Aitken, of the Lick Observatory, states that a comet discovered by Kiess was observed by Kiess July 6.9794 Greenwich mean time in

R.A.  $4^h 51^m 51^s.8$

Dec.  $+ 35^\circ 15' 02''$

The comet can be seen with an opera glass. It is moving southwest, and has a visible tail.

THE United States Weather Bureau is forming in its library, at Washington, a collection of meteorological photographs, and will welcome additions thereto from all parts of the world. The following classes of pictures are among those desired: (1) views of meteorological offices, observatories and stations; (2) pictures of meteorological apparatus; (3) portraits of meteorologists, views of their homes and birthplaces; (4) views showing the effects of storms, inundations, freezes, heavy snowfall, etc.; (5) cloud photographs; (6) photographs of optical phenomena (rainbows, halos, Brocken specter, mirage, etc.); (7) photographs of lightning and its effects; (8) photographs of meteorologically interesting pictures in old books, or of early prints and paintings (*e. g.*, contemporary pictures of the damage wrought by the great storm of 1703, in England). Persons who are willing to present such pictures to the Weather Bureau, or who will furnish them in exchange for Weather Bureau publications, are requested to address: Chief U. S. Weather Bureau (Library), Washington, D. C. It will add much to the value of these pictures if the sender will kindly note on the back of each as much pertinent information as practicable. On pictures of classes 4-7, inclusive, should be stated at least the date, hour and place at which each picture was taken, and the direction toward which the camera was pointed.

THE interest manifested in recent developments in the study of heredity and evolution and the application of this new knowledge to plant, animal and human life has led to the

presentation of a series of public lectures on these topics at the University of Chicago this summer. The lectures are open not only to students, but also to the general public. Three lectures were given in June. The first was a survey of general advances in science by Professor John M. Coulter, of the University of Chicago; another on "Variation, the Basic Factor in Evolution," by Associate Professor William L. Tower, of the University, and a third on "Variation, Heredity and their Relation in the Production and Perfection of New Races," by Dr. Tower. During July, the following lectures are being given in Kent theater:

July 5—"Mendel's Law of Heredity," William Ernest Castle, Ph.D., professor of zoology, Bussey Institution, Harvard University.

July 6—"Heredity, Selection and Sex," Professor Castle.

July 12—"Inheritance and Evolution in Higher Plants," Edward Murray East, Ph.D., assistant professor of experimental plant morphology, Harvard University.

July 19—"The Cytological Evidences of Germ Cell Constitution and Modification," Professor Coulter.

July 20—"Experimental Evidences of the Physical Constitution and Changes in Germ Cells," Associate Professor Tower.

July 26—"Inheritance of Physical and Mental Traits in Man, and their Application to Eugenics," Charles Benedict Davenport, Ph.D., director of the Station for Experimental Evolution, Carnegie Institution.

July 27—"The Eugenic Significance of the Geography of Man," The Eugenics Movement, Professor Davenport.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Nevada State University has received \$250,000 from Mr. Clarence Mackay, of New York City, and several of his friends, for the construction of a library and administration building.

MR. ROBERT CHRISTISON has offered to contribute a further £1,000 (having already given £1,000) for the foundation of a chair for tropical and sub-tropical agriculture in the University of Brisbane.

THE salaries of professors in Oberlin College have been increased \$200 each, and the salaries of associate professors \$300 each, these increases to go into effect at the beginning of the next college year.

ALL of the qualified men in this year's graduating class in the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin have secured positions and the requests for teachers are still coming in. The demand is especially strong from agricultural high schools both in Wisconsin and other states. Many of the requests are for men who have been brought up on farms, have had some teaching experience and also have had a thorough course in agriculture. The demand for such instructors in agriculture for high schools is very much greater than the supply. Even as early as four weeks ago most of the seniors had accepted positions as farm managers, as research assistants, or as teachers of agriculture in colleges and secondary schools. The average salary of the men who will teach next year in agricultural schools is \$1,253.

PROFESSOR G. A. BLISS, of the University of Chicago, and Professor Max Mason, of the University of Wisconsin, have been appointed lecturers in mathematics at Harvard University, the former for the first, and the latter for the second half of the academic year.

DR. STEWART PATON '86, has been appointed lecturer in biology at Princeton University.

DR. GEORGE S. MOLER, has been promoted to a full professorship of physics at Cornell University.

R. C. MULLENIX, Ph.D. (Harvard), professor of biology in Yankton College, South Dakota, has been elected to a similar position in Lawrence College, at Appleton, Wis.

THE following instructors have been appointed at Princeton University: in the department of physics, C. J. Davisson and P. Rosenberg; in the department of electrical engineering, George Olshaussen, Ph.D.; in the department of biology, E. Newton Harvey, instructor in physiology; in the department of civil engineering, P. R. Bickford '11 and A. C. Cornish '11, instructors in civil engi-

neering; J. H. Drummond '11, instructor in geodesy.

IN the Harvard Medical School instructors have been appointed as follows: Dr. Marshal Fabian, in comparative pathology; Dr. F. P. Johnson, in histology and embryology; Dr. L. B. Nice, in physiology, and Dr. C. G. Page, in bacteriology.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### CONCERNING THE "NEMATOCYSTS OF MICROSTOMA"

PROFESSOR KEPNER in a preliminary communication entitled "Nematocysts of *Microstoma*"<sup>1</sup> brings forward additional evidence showing that nettle capsules capable of subsequent discharge may be transferred from coelenterates to flatworms much as they are from hydroids and actinians to eolids. The mechanism of this interesting and suggestive process is described in some detail, but it is hoped that this will be added to and clarified when certain proposed experiments have been carried out. Quite apart from its subject-matter, however, Professor Kepner's paper has an interest especially in the light of Dr. McDermott's recent "Plea for the Use of References and Accuracy Therein."<sup>2</sup>

Thus on page 271, almost seven lines are quoted and attributed to Boulenger, pp. 127-8. Not only are there no such pages in Boulenger's article,<sup>3</sup> but the words are taken from my own paper.<sup>4</sup>

In the next paragraph Professor Kepner states that the cnidophages of æolids deliver their nematocysts to the cnidocyst, whereas the endodermal cells of *Microstoma* deliver their nematocysts to the mesoderm. Unfortunately for the analogy, both Grosvenor<sup>5</sup> and I<sup>6</sup> have shown that the cnidophages after en-

<sup>1</sup> *Biological Bulletin*, Vol. XX., No. 5.

<sup>2</sup> *SCIENCE*, Vol. XXXIII., No. 857.

<sup>3</sup> *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science*, Vol. 55, No. 220.

<sup>4</sup> *Journal of Experimental Zoology*, Vol. 9.

<sup>5</sup> *Proc. Royal Soc.*, Vol. 72. This reference, correctly given here and in my earlier paper (1909), is incorrectly given as Vol. 22 in my second article (1910) and in Kepner's paper as well.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*